



GERENJOTU

MAY 1976 VOLUME V, No. 5

ERENJOTU

35¢

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SPECIAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

For Bernie Pratz, Member and Friend of Serenity

April 4, 1976

A memorial service at the Serenity Church is a very special occasion, for to us there is only one life, and that life does not have a beginning and, therefore, does not have an ending. That is the life of the eternal spirit of which we, in truth, are. Bernie Pratz is a student and a member of this church, for Bernie Pratz, who has taken his flight to a higher level of consciousness known as heaven, is still a person.

It is not something that has been or used to be. When we understand that there is one consciousness, one Infinite and Divine Intelligence, of which we are, in truth, an inseparable part, when we look at life as life truly is, we know that if we lose an arm or a leg that we still are, that we still exist, for we still have a mind. We also know that this mind substance is not composed of the physical elements of our earth planet. And so it is, we all face this eternal doorway called death, but we must realize in consciousness that so-called death, in truth, is birth, for when our soul entered this earthly realm, we died to another awareness, and we were born to this awareness. And so it is that the

cycle ever completes itself, for that that comes from a thing, by the very law of coming from it, is destined, in time, to return to it.

In this philosophy we know beyond the shadow of any doubt that those who have left this physical world are aware, awake, alert, that they are conscious, not asleep, that they are, in truth, aware of our every thought, our every act, our every deed, for they are aware ever in keeping with the Law of Rapport that we have established with them. And so it is, if you take a journey and you go to Europe or to the Orient, what peace or joy can there be for you if your family and your friends whom you have left temporarily behind, they mourn in sadness and emotion for you? You could not very well enjoy your trip, your journey.

And so that is the way, in truth, that it really is. There are many who have gone before us. There are many who will go after we have left this earthly realm. So let us in our effort remove the fear which is only an error of ignorance in our mind, the fear and the superstition concerning life

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SPECIAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

continued from page 3

eternal. We are this moment consciously aware, hopefully, of where we are sitting and what is transpiring. We are aware, ever in keeping with the Law of Attention, for the Law of Attention declares that that which you place the attention upon, you, in truth, become. So if we place our attention upon the dark side of life, we place our attention upon the struggles of life, then we are never going to find the way.

We have a very simple affirmation in Serenity. It was brought forth for the children of our philosophy class, for all the small ones and the big ones, and the affirmation is something that had a very deep meaning, and still does, to Bernie Pratz. That affirmation is, "Thank you, God, I am at peace." For that's the only place that peace comes from. Peace does not come from the thought of man, for the thought of man is an expression, and that that is expressed, by the Law of Expression, is dual in its very nature of expression. And so we understand that peace and peace alone is the power. And so it is that the effort was made in study and application of the simple demonstrable laws of life. There is a differ-

ence between a law that is demonstrable and a law that is the theory, or facts, of men's minds, for a law that is demonstrable is a personal revelation unto ourself. That means that it is possible for us, personally, as individuals, to demonstrate for ourself the eternal truth, that our soul has entered here, this earth realm, to enjoy what this realm has to offer. If we do not enjoy what earth has to offer us, then we and we alone, from a lack of understanding, are transgressing the demonstrable Divine natural laws of life itself.

There is, indeed, and has been, much misunderstanding in the world concerning the philosophy of Spiritualism. The misunderstanding is from the lack of sincere investigation. I can assure you, when I first met Bernie (and many of you present are his friends), when I first met him he was not and is not the type of an individual that is credulous, to accept anything without a thorough investigation and a proof unto himself, for that, as his wife well knows, is his very nature. And so it is that he made the effort and he spent the time to investigate what the philosophy was all about. For he did not take and

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THE PENETRALIA
 BEING HARMONIAL ANSWERS TO IMPORTANT QUESTIONS
 by Andrew Jackson Davis

Continued from last issue—

What is life to ripened years?

The dreams of childhood are faded, but earliest joys come back with attractiveness renewed; youthful resolutions unkept, and participations that never filled the measure of desire, visit the old man, whose bark rides in the trough of that mountain-wave which will quickly cast him, beyond the region of danger, high upon the bosom of the Infinite. "Life is short," says Jean Paul Richter. "Man has two minutes and a half to live — one to smile, one to sigh, and a half to love — for, in the middle of this he dies; but the grave is not deep — it is the shining tread of an angel that seeks us. When the unknown hand throws the fatal dart at the end of man, then boweth he his head and the dart only lifts the crown of thorns from his wounds."

What is life to the religious man?

Life, to the orthodox believer, is God's transcendental-mysterious and unutterably-uncertain gift; that man, through his own free agency and knowledge of moral laws, may fix, while in this world,

his character and condition for eternal ages.

Is this opinion truthful?

Truthful opinions never impeach the plans of divine effort; neither do they afflict human souls with dismal ideas of the vast Beyond.

What do you mean?

I mean, in short, that believers of popular dogmas are tormented with tyrannic fear, and dare not think in freedom, "lest God should overhear their doubt — for God is thought to be always eavesdropping, and ever on the watch at the keyhole of human consciousness, hearing for the footfall of a wandering thought — when he will stab at and run them through, and then impale them on his thunderbolt fixed in eternal flame." Hence, the religious man entertains an idea of God which impeaches at once the majesty of divine Wisdom and the universality of divine Love.

What, then, is life to the man of wisdom?

It is the harbinger of those benefits which Time's sickle can not mow down, nor the chemistry of death impair; of lessons which, whether heeded

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SPECIAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

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does not take something on someone else's word, for if he was that type of a person, then he could not possibly have had the work that he had to do while on this earth realm.

We understand, for it is demonstrable, that emotion emanates from our very aura, from our being, a magnetic impulse; that this magnetic impulse attracts unto us whatever it is we direct it to. And so it is in so-called death, that we make great effort not to direct the emotions of sadness to those who have gone to higher levels of consciousness, for in so doing, like a rope pulling upon a person's neck, we pull them — we make great effort through our ignorance to pull them — back to an earth realm of consciousness. The ancient primitive religions of the world, and many of the Eastern philosophies, know that great truth. Therefore, there is always a rejoicing and a celebration when a soul leaves this earthly flesh.

Let us look at the human body as we look at our automobile. The automobile has been designed by man to do what man chooses to have it do for him. It's not the other way around. I don't know of any person of common sense that would have in their pos-

session an automobile that dictated where we were going to go when it decided to do so. No, we have designed the automobile as a vehicle of transport to be instrumental in helping us to express ourselves and fulfill our desires. Now that's what the human body is like. It is a vehicle designed by the Infinite Laws of Nature to transport our eternal soul on this earth realm, that our eternal soul may express itself and fulfill many of the desires of our own mind. And so would we, in truth, grieve for an automobile when it has no longer served its purpose of harmonious and peaceful transport here on the earth realm? No one, no one would keep that type of a car — not, surely, by conscious choice.

And so it is that Bernie Pratz was ready, willing and able to go into his new vehicle, which is a level of consciousness, and leave the old clay behind here to return to the elements from which it was composed. Many people over these 35 years of serving spirit, have asked me what is the best thing that they can do to help someone that they love so dearly who has passed into another dimension. The best possible thing I know that any soul could ever do in simple

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Student's Corner



by E. Joan Masad*

Our true purpose for being is to be a vehicle for the Light, to be an open and clear channel that through us the power may work and the Light may go forth.

The words of that marvelous old inspirational hymn comes to mind—"Let the lower lights be burning—send a gleam across the wave—some poor fainting, struggling seaman — you may rescue, you may save."

If we are truly a living demonstration of the Light, sincere seekers of the truth will be drawn to us. Each day let us ask the Divine that we may be an instrument

for bringing the Light to the world.

We do know the power of the spoken word when we ask we do receive and when we knock, the door does open. Therefore, when we know our purpose in life, that it is to serve the Light, we are given the opportunity daily. It is our duty to serve and how grateful we are for the opportunity. What joy it brings to serve the true purpose of our existence.

The wisdom of teaching is for the teacher to be a student and the student will be a teacher to the teacher.

—The Wise One

VIEWS OF OUR HEAVENLY HOME

by Andrew Jackson Davis

Continued from last issue--

FUNCTIONS OF THE CELESTIAL CURRENTS

I have affirmed that there were electrical rivers setting toward earth and toward the various planets in our system from different sections of the Spirit Land. The atoms flow from every part of the earth to the north pole, thence, above in the atmosphere, streaming southward to the south pole; from which, frequently like an inverted pyramid, but more resembling the half of a hollow sphere, the magnetic rivers rise and flow out into the planetary spaces. Between these twin-rivers, as you observe, is indicated the returning magnetic stream, which conveys constant pulsations to the life of mankind from the great central sun of spirituality and intelligence in the Second Sphere.

Before leaving this subject, however, there is one fact more—viz.: the geometrical principle of right lines giving the shortest distance between the earth and the Summerland which inherent principle perfectly explains the truth about the directions of these interstellar rivers. But here arises a natural question as to the rev-

olution of the planets, comets, etc., whose orbits come near or cross the path of these celestial gulf streams. The answer is: The materials composing these rivers render them either positive or negative to the approaching planet, and vice versa; consequently, as an elastic ribbon would be repelled by an electrified ball presented sufficiently near to its surface, so these rivers float away, either bending downwards or else ascending into a grand prismatic arch, thus giving ample room for the passage of a planet. But immediately afterward they resume their customary direct courses. The composition of these currents is such that they swing and flow like the waves of sound and light, with vibrations and straight lines and with pulse-like throbs unceasingly; thus harmonizing under all the conditions of space with planetary revolutions, with the flight of comets, and with the stupendous movements of the immeasurable Univercoelum.

Departing now from a further detailed consideration

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Visitors Views

"The service was a help to many people and positive and human."

"I was most impressed with your service. I felt the nearness of spirit and welcomed your acknowledgement." H.Y.

"This has been my third visit to your services. Once again I enjoyed the service very much and the spiritual communications. The memorial service to Bernie was beautiful and sincere meaning. It was my pleasure to be with you." M.H.

"I felt the service was exceptional. The explanation on transition of death was very interesting and the messages given were helpful to both me and my family. Thank You." R. D.

"It was interesting-the thoughts and comments on the departed flight were most interesting. Always fascinating to hear all the different views."



"I enjoyed being here very much for my first time, I know I shall return. It was a different experience for me, one of which I've never had before. It left me with a good feeling. Thank-you (much)" S.D.

"Most interesting! Revealed some deep inner needs. Thank you." J.W.I.

"Today was the first time I went into healing. I'll do it from now on."

"A very helpful and fulfilling experience." D.M.

"This experience here today for me was an enlightening one; to find a group of people who think and feel the way that I do and who put it into motion by practice." S.C.

SPIRITUALIST DICTIONARY

TEACHINGS

Among the many communications received through mediumship, there are some which present a code of ethics for human living. They contain many fundamental principles already familiar to us from orthodox scriptures and much fresh material concerning immediate states after death, which is illuminating. Except in a broad sense, they are not wholly consistent; this is due to the varying stages reached by the different communicators. They are, however, unanimous in preaching a gospel of love, personal responsibility for any neglect of one's fellows, denial of vicarious atonement, the removing of fears of death and punishment. These teachers disclaim superiority; they only wish to be known as humble servants who transmit from higher sources, and give in good faith what they honestly believe to be the soundest guidance for humanity.

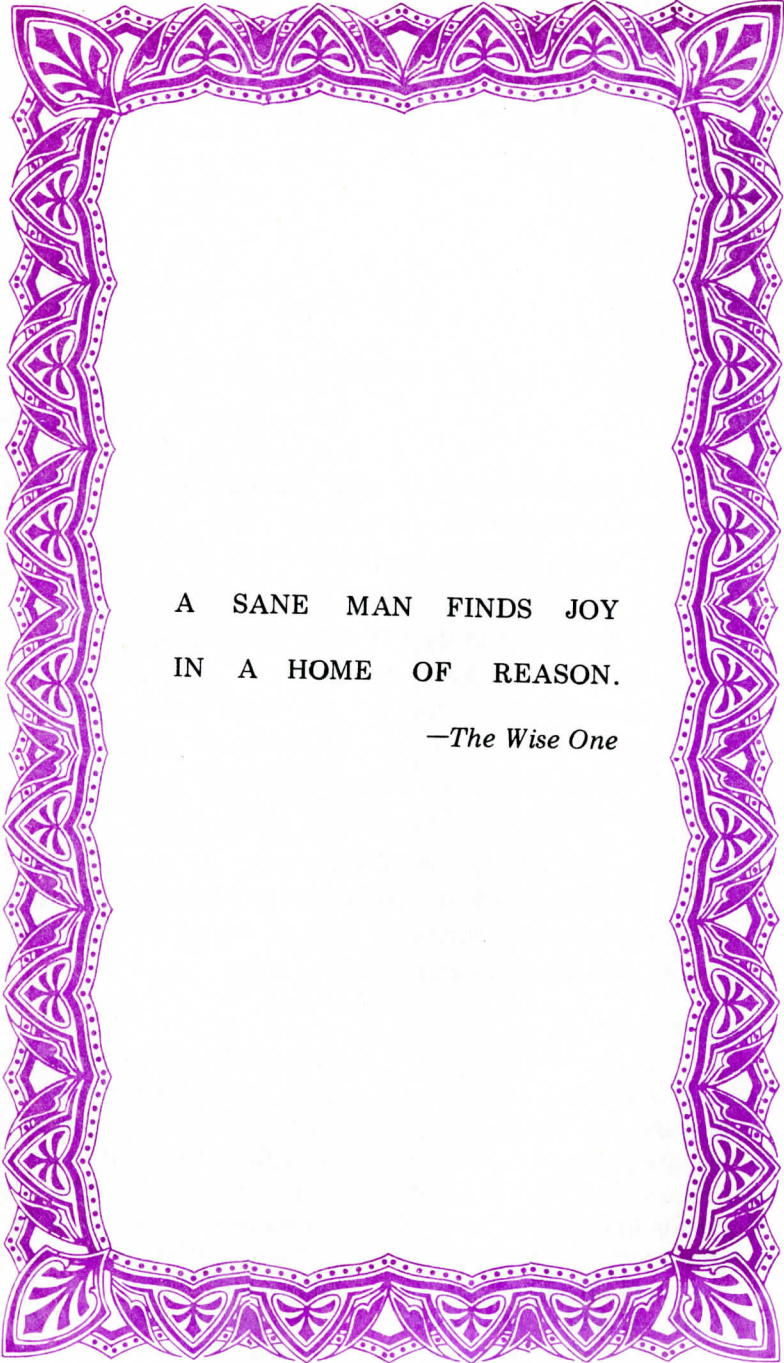
TELEKINESIS

The movement of objects without normal material con-

nexions to the cause. A common feature of physical phenomena due to ectoplasmic extensions from the medium's body.

TELEPATHY

An extra sensory correspondence between a present mental pattern of A and a present past or future mental pattern of B. The possibility of clairvoyance must have been eliminated. Much statistical work has been done in an effort to learn whether it does occur, and the probable means of its operations. Notably the work of Professor J. B. Rhine of Duke University, Ohio, and Dr. S. G. Soal of England. Many thousands of experiments have provided undoubted evidence of its occurrence, but no satisfactory working hypothesis of its action. It appears to be unrestricted by any known laws of radiation and the sequences get mixed in time. The fact of its existence between the minds of the living clears the way for the acceptance of the possibility of telepathy with the minds of the dead.



A SANE MAN FINDS JOY
IN A HOME OF REASON.

—The Wise One

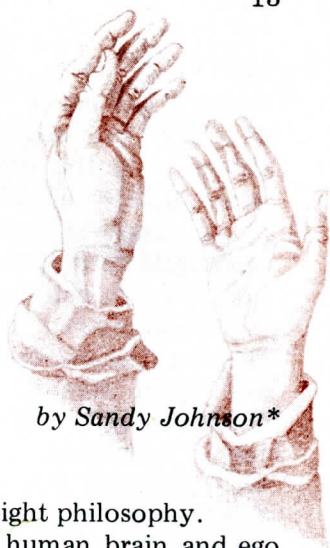
PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL HEALING

*I ask the great Unseen Healing Force
To remove all obstructions
From my mind and body
And to restore me to perfect health.
I ask this in all sincerity and honesty
And I will do my part.*

*I ask this great Unseen Healing Force
To help both present and absent ones
Who are in need of help
And to restore them to perfect health.
I put my trust
In the Love and Power of God.*

Healing Hands

In discussing spiritual healing with individuals who have not knowingly had the experience or exposure of this great balancing power, we often hear comments of disbelief. Their minds are not capable of understanding something that cannot be defined in the finite terms of their own subconscious taped patterns. In order to consider the possibility of spiritual healing, we each must "consider and accept a greater authority in our life than the limited importance of our so-called egos" as given in the



by Sandy Johnson*

Living Light philosophy.

The human brain and ego is of form and creation and is, therefore, limited in its expression. Only our eternal soul can perceive the wonderful works of the great Infinite Intelligence to whom all things are possible. When our soul rises and is in control, we can bow our brain—ego in grateful humility to God and all things that are necessary for our understanding and freedom shall be revealed.

When you enter the healing room and sit down in the chair, a great peace comes over you. You don't have to be physically ill to go into healing. You can enter any time even though you feel very healthy and "on top of the world." The serene feeling of unity within yourself is such a nice way of

by Britt Toquinto*

getting in touch with yourself. Also, feeling the warmth and power flowing through the healer while soft music plays in the background makes it a perfect stillness for a moment within yourself. Then you can truly say, "Thank you, God I am at peace."

HEAVENLY HOME

continued from page 8

of this subject, not being consistent with the primal purposes of these chapters, I pass on to answer a large flock of buzzing interrogatories, which have been recently generated.

An impression is now beclouding the reader's mind to the effect that all personal communication and all spiritual commerce between earth's inhabitants and the population of the higher spheres, is possible only through the aerial rivers—that every one, either going or coming, must first find these particular currents, and then sail, float, or glide upon them, in all voyages undertaken through the heavenly expanse.

This supposition is based in error. For have I not already many times affirmed the great fact, which was most completely described by Swedenborg, that the world of spirit is omnipresent? He records over and again, "Wonderful Things seen in the World of Spirits," which is one thing; but he means, and very truly means, something totally different when he gives "Relations of Things seen and heard in the Spiritual World." By the

latter terms he meant the Divine side of the universe — in three indwelling divisions — the natural, the spiritual, and the celestial or heavenly. Against these three divisions of the Spiritual World, as you will remember, Swedenborg offset and balanced his three hells, one within the other; the most interior and remote hell being the exact opponent of the most perfect and inmost heaven. This antagonism to exist to all eternity; which theory, outside of Swedenborg, has no foundation.

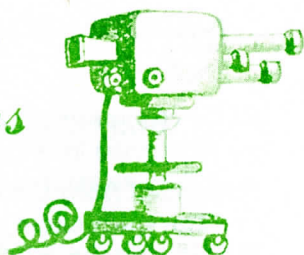
But however widely and absolutely we may differ with Swedenborg when expounding his theological hypotheses (by which he was, for so many serious and busy years, psychologized both day and night) we yet agree with him when he affirms, what common sense and intuition and science concurrently confirm, that, on a principle of correspondence, just as the soul is within the natural or material body, so is there a world of spirits or a spiritual world within the natural or material world. In this essential we agree with Swedenborg.

(continued next issue)

Only a fool tries to teach what he cannot demonstrate.

—The Wise One

News & Views



Hospital patients in New York are encountering a new brand of medicine this year — at least new to the American Medical Association. For the past two years Dolores Krieger, Ph.D. and registered nurse, has been teaching healing via the laying on of hands in a graduate course at New York University's Division of Nursing. Her students are now practicing at several New York hospitals (with patient and doctor approval) with astounding results, including several total remissions of tumor conditions.

In describing the "therapeutic touch," as it is referred to, Krieger says there are "sensory changes" that take place in both the healer and the patient. "The patient feels a deep—as opposed to surface—heat within the tissues underlying the area on which I place my hands. They are profoundly relaxed and have a sense of well-being." The nurse applying the touch "must clear her mind, center or quiet herself, and be deeply motivated in the best interests of the patient who is touched. You open yourself up to the patient

*by Duncan Robertson**

but in a relaxed way. You don't really try hard, and you feel energized rather than depleted when it is over."

Dr. Krieger has studied patients who have availed themselves of the services of the well-known healer Oskar Estebany. In three separate studies involving over 89 of Estebany's patients Krieger noted significant rises in the hemoglobin levels of all who had received the touch. "Hemoglobin is the component of the blood which is highly sensitive to oxygen and is responsible for delivering oxygen to the tissues," explains Krieger.

The New York researcher believes that an exchange of energy is involved in the healing process, whereby the patient either receives additional energy or raises his or her own energy level to the point where recuperative or self-healing activities begin.

GUIDE TO MEDIUMSHIP AND PHYSICAL UNFOLDMENT

by E.W. and M.H. Wallis

*SPIRIT CIRCLES: HOW TO FORM AND CONDUCT THEM.**Continued from last issue—*

The spirit circle is a gathering of persons who desire to establish relations with the world of spirits, and receive communications therefrom. As such intercourse is a matter of fact—proved by oft-repeated experiment—it follows that the observance of those conditions which experience suggests will be the surest way of obtaining the desired results.—J.J. Morse.

The mediumistic faculty in all its forms can be cultivated by sitting in the spirit-circle, which tends to perfect and spiritualize the magnetism of the sitters by their mutual action on each other and by the influence of the spirits.—Mrs. Emma Hardinge Britten.

The purpose for which the 'Spirit Circle' is held is that by the blending of the aura, psychic force, or magnetic emanations of the sitters, the attention of disembodied spirits may be attracted and a battery be formed by means of which they can communicate with the circle. The focalization of this force rests with the unseen operator, and if they are skilled in the *modus*

operandi, they know where, how, and in what way to use it to the best advantage.

Let us suppose that a number of persons determine to experiment and seat themselves around a table, place their hands on its surface, and engage in agreeable conversation. After a time, if the sitters provide the right conditions, it will be found that the table will begin to move. When the movements occur readily, one of the circle, acting as chairman, should ask that answers to questions may be given by the table signaling replies, tilting three times for affirmative, once for negative, twice for 'doubtful,' four for 'don't know,' five times for the 'alphabet' to be called over. This code of signals is the one most frequently used, but any other will do as well. Answers to questions can generally be obtained, and messages, regarding matters of fact entirely unknown to the sitters, respecting deceased persons (who claim to be causing the tilts or rapping), are spelt out by this means, to be afterwards verified, so as to prove

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CHILDREN'S CORNER

In keeping with Serenity's policy to encourage expression by all its students, this column contains the unedited articles submitted by the children attending our children's philosophy classes. — Editor

Kindness—When people can not do things. I will ask them if they need sum help. and if they say yes I will help them.

Lisa Toquinto, Age 8

Kindness—Kindness is when you don't set traps for the animals to get caught, because, when there caught they even chew off there leg just to get free, and they leave a piece of there body kindness also is when you clean the house for your working mother and also to help someone if they have a problem. Or sharing, and there are lot's of ways of being kind.

Virginia Kohl, Age 11

I Love God

Erik Masad, Age 5

I love plants

I love god

Michael Field, Age 5

faith is beliving like if you know get a bike you will

Patrick Connolly, Age 8

Faith—faith is trust and be-living. If you have faith in god that means you belive and trust him. Put your faith in god and see the light.

Linda Nave, Age 13

Kindness is when someone helps each other.

Maureen Connolly, Age 5

Being kind is helping other people and being nice. I like being kind and other people be kind to me.

Mary Connolly, Age 7

Joy is living in a happy world. Jov is peace. Joy is to ride a horse for the frist time.

Sheryl Long, Age 10

Joy—Joy is when a person is happy-Joy is when someone dies and you know they're going to heaven. I think Joy is when my grandmother and grandfather come to my house and say they are going to stay for five days.

Sean Connolly, Age 9

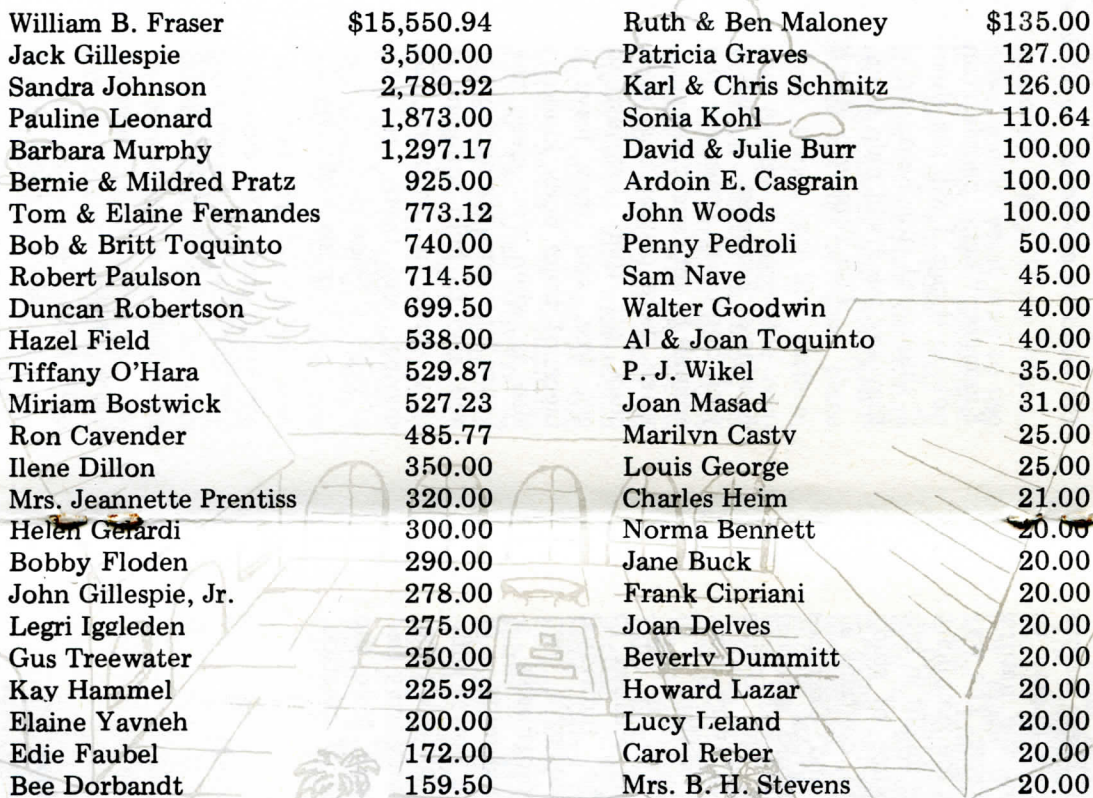
Joy is having fun evry-where. and smile! and joy is love

Katie, Age 8

Serenity Church Builders

GOAL: \$540,000

JANUARY 1973 TO DATE: \$35,322.08



William B. Fraser	\$15,550.94	Ruth & Ben Maloney	\$135.00
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Sandra Johnson	2,780.92	Karl & Chris Schmitz	126.00
Pauline Leonard	1,873.00	Sonia Kohl	110.64
Barbara Murphy	1,297.17	David & Julie Burr	100.00
Bernie & Mildred Pratz	925.00	Ardoine E. Casgrain	100.00
Tom & Elaine Fernandes	773.12	John Woods	100.00
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Maureen Connolly	5.00
Virginia Kohl	5.00

We gratefully acknowledge gifts to the Serenity Church Building Fund. Donations and pledges may be made payable to Serenity Spiritualist Association. Contributions are deductible for income tax purposes.

The Living Light

THE LIVING LIGHT is a unique book, presenting the first and fresh expression of the individual understanding of a Great teacher from other dimensions, known to us only as *The Old Man*. This book, given as a series of discourses to a class in spiritual unfoldment through the mediumship of Richard P. Goodwin, contains the understanding developed in *The Old Man* through centuries of study in the higher realms of Light. The lessons to be perceived are not new. In fact, they are very, very old, but they are new and alive to certain levels of our con-

sciousness. This is why they are given now, in our time, to those who seek. These lessons are not based on dogma or creed, rather on the natural laws of the universe. The way is not easy, but the simplicity of truth is gently taught in this inspirational course of study which, if applied, contains all the teachings and exercises necessary to unfold spiritual awareness, the Divine spark in every man. The system of teaching is carefully attuned to the individual student's own progressive awakening of the power within his being that he may truly free his soul from the bondage of creation.



SELECTED PASSAGE:

*Find the purpose of your life,
learn to be free and then you shall
know this great God that is within
and without.*

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GUIDE TO MEDIUMSHIP

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the identity of the person communicating.

How To Form The Circle.

The number in the circle should not be less than four nor more than twelve. An equal number of both sexes is preferable to a preponderance of either. The date of meeting should be fixed and unchanged, and every member should attend regularly. It is best, when practicable, to have a room set apart for the circle, and it should be comfortably warmed and seated and cheerfully lighted. The members should always occupy the same places round the table, except when requested by the spirits to make a change. The sensitive, or known medium, if one is present, should form part of this circle.

At the commencement joining hands (the right over the left) has advantages, but

afterwards the hands can be placed on the table, palms downward. No one should be allowed in the room who does not sit in the circle. It should be constantly borne in mind that pure air and convenient seats, insuring ease and physical comfort, are helpful to success. Even more necessary is freedom from mental excitement and self-assertion. Innocent fun and sociability are good. The spirits are our friends—are human beings; they do not desire conventional solemnity, nor an artificial assumption of reverence and stained-glass attitudes of piety. But frivolity, curiosity, wonder, self-seeking, disputation, mercenariness, and pride are still more injurious. The great aim should be to be natural, kindly, appreciative, strong and sensible.

*'How pure in heart and sound in head,
With what divine affection bold
Should be the man whose thought would hold
An hour's communion with the dead.'*

When To Sit. The best time to sit is at that hour which is most convenient to all the sitters; when they are

least likely to be disturbed, and when they can best give themselves up to the investigation.

(continued next issue)



Cook Book Capers

RECIPES FROM: SERENITY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

STRAWBERRY CAKE

- 1 package white cake mix
- 1 small package frozen strawberries and juice (thawed)
- 4 whole eggs
- 1/2 cup cooking oil
- 1 small package strawberry gelatin (add dry)
- 1/2 cup water

To dry cake mix add all ingredients except strawberries. Beat well until fluffy (about 4 minutes). Fold in strawberries. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 to 45 minutes. Makes two 8 or 9 inch layers or a 9 x 13 inch cake. Frost with Mock Whipped Cream tinted pink. Put sliced fresh strawberries between layers and decorate top with fresh strawberries.

MOCK WHIPPED CREAM

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 5 tablespoons flour | 1/2 cup shortening |
| 1 cup milk | 1/2 cup butter |
| 1 cup sugar | 1 tablespoon vanilla |

Mix flour and milk to smooth paste in a small pan. Cook over low heat until very thick, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and cool. Beat sugar, shortening and butter at highest speed for 10 minutes. Beat this mixture into cold milk and flour mixture until it looks like whipped cream. Add vanilla. Beat. Add red food coloring to tint light pink. Makes 4 cups approximately.

RED CURRANT SAUCE

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1/2 cup red currant jelly | 1/4 cup port wine |
| 1/ cup catsup | 1/2 teaspoon worchestershire sauce |
| 2 tablespoons butter | |

Combine ingredients and place over low heat until jelly melts. Makes one cup. Serve with ham.

INVOCATION

O Spirit of Infinite Wisdom and Love, we yearn to come into a more perfect understanding of things spiritual. We aspire to see beauty where before has been shadows of ignorance, superstition and fear. May the Light of Life Eternal dawn in our consciousness that we may be guided on in greater service to Thee. Let us not hold to Thy Love but shine it forth into a darkened world through the demonstration of our faith, that it may gladden the heavy heart and calm the troubled mind to free the eternal soul to rise to Thee.

READING

Let us consider the mission of Death. Millions through the ages have beheld death with terror. Let us dispel the gloom.

O Death, thy dark shadow is but a thin veil between worlds. Thou givest greater value to this temporal world, and yet if we resign ourselves to thee thy true purpose is not served. Let us therefore understand thee, O Death, that we may not be hindered in our eternal journey by thy gates, but pass through our brief encounter to a greater

life, and greater light, a greater love than our mortal eyes have beheld.

We surrender to thee, O Death all that is thine — the fears and sufferings of uncertainty, the errors and disappointments of greed; and we turn our thought to the Light that never faileth, from whence cometh all good. For we know that in the Eternal Way no child of God is ever forsaken, and the door will open wide to him whose effort is sincere.

We fear thee not, O Death, for the winds of Spirit hath parted thy veil to reveal the glories of the realms beyond. In Peace we rise to view beyond all mortal concern, and within our breast is ignited a love that dispels all shadows and brings to our being an inner knowing of the greater mission of Life. In these moments we draw near to those dear ones who have gone before, not in our desire to hold them but in our aspiration to serve the Eternal Light to which they now pay allegiance. In silence soul speaks to soul, God and spirit unite and the gates to eternity open wide to receive the reborn soul.

Therefore, let us not mourn and lament over Death, for Death is the gateway of Life.



Busy Bees

*by Miriam Bostwick**

In celebration of Serenity Church's fifth anniversary, a lovely anniversary dinner party is planned for Saturday, May 15 to which all are most cordially invited to attend.

From the very humble beginning five years ago, with only a small active membership, the accomplishments have been impressive. Highlights include publication of *THE LIVING LIGHT* book; ongoing Awareness Classes of advanced spiritual teachings, with cassettes available to the public; *The Serenity Game*, the first philosophy game of its kind in the world; the installation of a press room with modern equipment and electronic typesetter-composer to handle all regular printing requirements; the upgrading of standards for unfolding students; monthly dinner parties with international themes; bake sales; gourmet brunches; unique fund-raising projects;

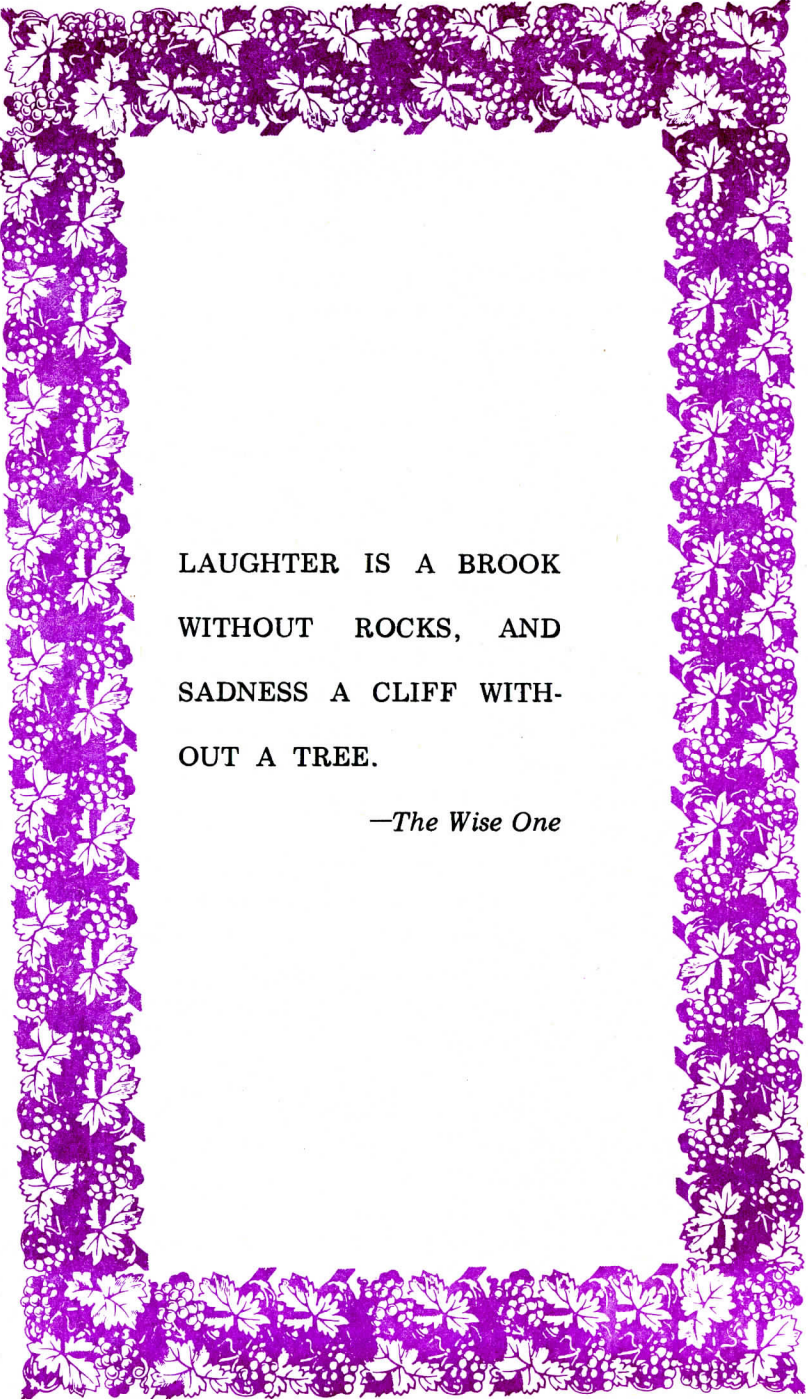
and under spirit guidance, an incredible modernization of the office audio department, bringing the finest possible sound reproduction for our spiritual classes and lectures. Also at the office, the golden opportunity is provided the workers to listen to superb music. Attendance at the Sunday devotional services has continued to increase, with many new persons being exposed to the Light.

While still holding services in the American Legion Log Cabin in San Anselmo, we are moving ahead with plans for Serenity's permanent home. Also for the future, physical development of Camp Serenity, our spiritual mountain retreat in beautiful Mendocino County, is projected.

BAKE SALE: May 22
Place: Montecito, San Rafael

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

1. *We believe in Infinite Intelligence.*
2. *We believe that the phenomena of nature, both physical and spiritual, are the expression of Infinite Intelligence.*
3. *We affirm that a correct understanding of such expression and living in accordance therewith constitute true religion.*
4. *We affirm that the existence and personal identity of the individual continue after the change called death.*
5. *We affirm that communication with the so-called dead is a fact, scientifically proven by the phenomena of Spiritualism.*
6. *We believe that the highest morality is contained in the Golden Rule: "Whatsoever ye would that others should do unto you, do ye also unto them."*
7. *We affirm the moral responsibility of the individual, and that he makes his own happiness or unhappiness as he obeys or disobeys Nature's physical and spiritual laws.*
8. *We affirm that the doorway to reformation is never closed against any human soul here or hereafter.*
9. *We affirm that the Precept of Prophecy contained in the Bible is a Divine attribute proven through Mediumship.*



LAUGHTER IS A BROOK
WITHOUT ROCKS, AND
SADNESS A CLIFF WITH-
OUT A TREE.

—*The Wise One*

BECOMING A SPIRITUALIST: by *H. Gordon Burroughs*

THE PHILOSOPHY OF SPIRITUALISM

Continued from last issue

Those souls who are illumined recognize that all things that they desire, that do not interfere with God's immutable law, they can attain by living in harmony with God. They recognize that all ills of the human family are brought about by ignorance of God's law. They have discovered the great fact that man has within him the power to accomplish anything that he so desires.

This spiritual philosophy has been taught by the mediums of all time. Comparatively few of the human family have ever been able to grasp fully this mighty truth. They who have attained to this knowledge have become illumined and have been known to the world as mystics, prophets, seers, or mediums.

In and through the philosophy of Spiritualism can we find the way whereby all may enjoy, as have the few of the past, this joyous realization.

To those of today who are asking the question of how? when? where?, we can answer through the voices of those mediums of the past who attained to this glorious state of happiness and contentment that can be achieved only by

withdrawing oneself from the discontented, disturbed conditions of the world into the inner consciousness and there find the I, the Ego, the True Self—that divine spark of God which is at once the I and ALL.

The Spiritualistic philosophy ever presents the truths that we are immortal, that we are a part of all there is in the universe, both seen and unseen, and that all expressions of that force we recognize as God. Death being only a change from one sphere of activity to another, our present personality continues throughout all time. As we are a part of all, we are subject to the changes which are constantly going on around us; and this being true, to find happiness we must attune ourselves to meet them.

Being a part of God's Kingdom, we are created perfect. Only through dogmatic teachings and misinterpretations of His law, have we committed error which can be set aside only by returning to the Father and finding our place in His great plan of continuous activity. Living thus in accordance with Natural Law is, after all, living in accordance with God's Law.

(continued next issue)



Lest We Forget

Bubba
 The Carillo Family
 Charlie
 Harry Claveri
 Bessie Davis
 Francis M. Gelardi, Jr.
 Kathleen Graves
 Isa Goodwin
 James J. Hosp
 Irene
 Jonquil
 Jezabel
 Harold Lucas

Joe Lucas
 Erik Othberg
 Perry
 Bernie Pratz
 Rod Serling
 Snowflake
 Fea Steele
 Foster Steele
 Lyn Stephens
 Sunshine
 Britta Uppstrom
 Esther Yavneh
 Vera Youdavitch

To send a helpful thought of joy and light to those you love who have passed to the higher life, list their names in this column. Donation of one dollar per name is requested.

SPECIAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

continued from page 6

kindness for anyone who has gone to the other world is to be happy, to do the things they know they should, and to enjoy doing those things while they are doing them. For to grieve for those who have been freed from the earthly clay is, in truth, the epitome of selfishness and the denial of God's Divine right to take the soul, ever in keeping with the Divine's own laws.

I know I will not view in my lifetime on earth the abolishment of pagan ceremonies and funerals, but I also know that there is slowly, but surely, an awakening within the consciousness of mankind. What is it, in truth, that causes this great fear when we face this journey that we all this moment are facing, for it is not within the power of our conscious mind to decide when we will leave the earthly realm — that is not within the power of our conscious mind—so, in truth, we are each moment and each second, facing what we call death. The question must arise within our consciousness, "Are we prepared for the inevitable, or are we, from an error of ignorance called fear, procrastinating?" Because if we are, then for us, I can assure you it will be much more difficult when it

comes. What is the true cause of this fear? Where is the error of this ignorance? We look at a physical world and we have many physical things. And when we are faced with leaving those physical things and people, then fear arises in our mind. But you see, the truth of it all is we do take it with us. The world is brain-washed to facts, and the facts look at the physical things and people we are attached to, and they see others who have passed on, and they say we don't take it with us. But the truth of the matter is we do take it with us. We take with us our mind, and everything that exists outside is an effect of what our mind is entertaining inside. All of life is a reflection, a mirror of what we, and we alone, entertain in thought. Heaven is not a place that we are going to. It is a state of consciousness that we are growing to in this, the eternal moment. So when we find that heaven, that peace that passeth all understanding, in the here and the now, then when we leave the physical world, that is what we enter.

And I am so very grateful to know beyond a shadow of any doubt that Bernie Pratz, within three hours of leaving this physical world, entered

(continued page 33)



Poet's Pen

To Bernie

Morning has brought a racing heart
 His bags are packed and ready to depart
 The 747 is on the runway
 It won't be long before he nods bye bye
 In his moment of final surrender
 May all of his lessons be remembered
 First will be the hall of repose
 Where a rest awaits him — I'm sure he knows.

On awakening in this continued life
 Some beautiful pleasures — no more strife
 Then on about God's business
 May this be yet his greatest richness
 Some say he is leaving so young
 But when his purpose is finally done
 There is no reason to linger on
 So farewell, my love, progress on and on.

—Mildred Pratz

FABLES FOR YOUNG AND OLD

THE GOATHERD AND THE GOATS

A Goatherd and his flock were once caught in a fierce snowstorm. The Goatherd was frantically searching for shelter and was greatly relieved when he saw a cave. But to his disappointment he found it already occupied by a large herd of wild Goats. As he stood looking at the Goats huddled in the cave, a thought struck him: Why not just take care of these Goats, since they were already comfortably settled in the cave, and let his own Goats take care of themselves?

So the Goatherd scratched around in the snow for grass and weeds to feed the wild Goats. Then he gathered an armload of branches and built a fire just inside the mouth of the cave. The wild Goats were puzzled by the Goatherd's kindness, but they

gratefully licked his hands as he fed them. The Goatherd was convinced he had won their everlasting devotion.

Several hours later the storm passed and the Goatherd looked out of the cave. What he saw was not very pleasant. The Goats he had abandoned were all frozen in their tracks.

Telling himself he had only acted as a good businessman, the Goatherd headed back to be with his new herd. But as he neared the cave, he saw the wild Goats bounding out into the melting snow and scattering over the hillside. By the time he reached the cave they were all gone.

"Deserters!" the Goatherd shouted after them.

Then he turned and started the long trudge home alone.

*One who neglects old friends for the sake of new ones
often loses both.*

When the lips are sealed in silence
And the ears are closed secure
Peace within has found its glory
The soul will play the perfect score
—*The Wise One*

THE LIVING LIGHT PHILOSOPHY

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SPECIAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

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what we know in our understanding as the halls of repose. He spoke to my mother in that dimension who has been over there for sometime, and he had one request — that he may somehow get a message back to this earth realm what his journey was all about. He was prepared about the mind and how the mind works, that when we go through this so-called transition, that there are many thoughts that rise from the depths of our own subconscious, that there are many distractions to our mind as this transition process is taking place, but if we would keep our eye upon the light, for a light appears before us as

our time nears — untold millions of souls have seen it — they call the light an angel — it doesn't matter what you call it, it is a light to light your path, and if you keep your eye single upon the eternal light, you will arrive at your final destination. If you do not keep your eye upon that light that appears in your consciousness, then you will be distracted and pulled into realms which, in truth, are the effects of our own subconscious mind. The day will soon dawn here on earth when the actual processes of transition will be detailed for all to study and to apply.

And so, my mother put into a few words Bernie's experiences when he left earth:

*With the Light of God to guide me
I passed through the portal of death
Freed from the fear of dying
My mind at last came to rest.
As angels of love stood beside me
Their songs of joy in my heart
Peace, the heaven I longed for
Was mine at last, never to part.*

Editor's Note — The *SENTINEL* extends its appreciation to the many students of the Serenity concept of Spiritualism who contribute their articles to this magazine, sharing their understanding with our readers. Student articles are recognized by an asterisk.*

THE PENETRALIA

continued from page 5

and treasured up or not
in our early years, and the
primal causes and necessary
rudiments of an eternal
education. The wise man
thinketh that the life of
this world, like a golden
harp of infinite magnitude,

yieldeth to the use made
of it; music floats out
from its vibrating wires,
or discord goes rolling
and winding through the
tissues of being, just as
we play upon it. John G.
Whittier hath well said:—

*"We shape, ourselves, our joy or fear
Of which the coming life is made,
And fill our future's atmosphere
With sunshine or with shade,*

*"The tissue of the life to be
We weave with colors all our own,
And in the field of destiny
We reap as we have sown.*

*"Still shall the soul around it call
The shadows which it gathered there:
And, painted on the eternal wall,
The past shall reappear!—*

*"For there we live our life again:
Or warmly touched or coldly dim
The pictures of the past remain—
Man's work shall follow him!"*

*What is life to the author
of books?*

William Hazlitt, both
thoughtful and imaginative, is
ready with his reply; he who
never wrote a shallow, dull, or

flat-bottomed sentence; yet
whose position, being half-
spiritual and wholly rational,
may not afford the required
response.

(continued next issue)



THIS IS MY CHURCH

This is my Church.
It is composed of
people like me.
We make it what it is.

I want it to be a
Church that is a
lamp to the path
of pilgrims, leading
them to goodness,
truth and beauty.

It will be, if I am.

It will be friendly if I am.
Its pews will be filled, if I help to
fill them.

It will do a great work, if I work.
It will bring other people into its
worship and fellowship, if I bring them.

It will be a Church of loyalty and love,
of fearlessness and faith, and a Church
with a noble spirit—if I, who make it
what it is, am filled with these.

Therefore, with the help of God, I shall
dedicate myself to the task of being
all of these things that I want my
Church to be.

—From “I Belong”
by Hoover Rupert

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